

NEWS RELEASE

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State Forester Rescinds Fire Restrictions On State-Owned Lands Outside Incorporated Municipalities in All Counties Except Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma Counties Effective July 19, 2013

PHOENIX, AZ (July 19, 2013) – Due to the onset of monsoonal weather pattern throughout most of Arizona and the subsequent decrease in fire danger, State Forester Scott Hunt announced today that the Arizona State Forestry Division will be rescinding fire restrictions on State-owned and State-managed lands in all counties except Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma, where fire restrictions will be reduced to Stage 1 restrictions. These three counties are still experiencing dry conditions with elevated fire danger. The rescission of fire restrictions on the 12 counties and the implementation of Stage 1 fire restrictions for the three counties listed above are effective July 19, 2013 at 0800 hrs.

This rescission for 12 counties and reduction to Stage 1 fire restrictions for three counties cover all unincorporated State-owned and State-managed lands, including all State Trust lands, all Game and Fish Wildlife Areas, all Arizona State Parks, and all Department of Transportation highway right-of-way property not owned by Federal land management agencies. For further information regarding Arizona State Parks, please visit <http://azstateparks.com>.

The **restrictions** for Mohave, La Paz, and Yuma Counties are as follows:

- Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire, charcoal, coal, or wood stove other than in a developed campsite or picnic area is **prohibited**. **Exemptions** include persons using a device solely fueled by liquid petroleum or LPG fuels that can be turned on and off.
- Smoking is **prohibited unless**: it is within an enclosed vehicle or building, a developed recreation site/improved site, or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.
- The discharging or using of any kind of fireworks and incendiary devices is **prohibited**.
- Welding or operating acetylene or other torch device with an open flame is **prohibited**.

Additional ***exemptions*** to the above-listed restrictions include:

- Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or firefighting force in the performance of an official duty.
- All land within a city boundary is exempted unless otherwise stated in city ordinance.

If local authorities have imposed stronger restrictions than those listed above, then the local restrictions shall apply. These restrictions do not apply to private lands.

For more information regarding fire restrictions, please visit the fire restrictions website at <http://firerestrictions.us/az>. Additional information about the Arizona State Forestry Division and the Notice of Fire Restrictions may be found at www.azsf.az.gov.

These restrictions are effective July 19, 2013.